



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

Library Assistants' Association.

Vol. 2.

JULY, 1901.

No. 22.

L.A.A. MEETING—SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING.

EXCURSION NOTICE—ROCHESTER.

HOLIDAY HINTS—GLASGOW AND ITS EXHIBITION.

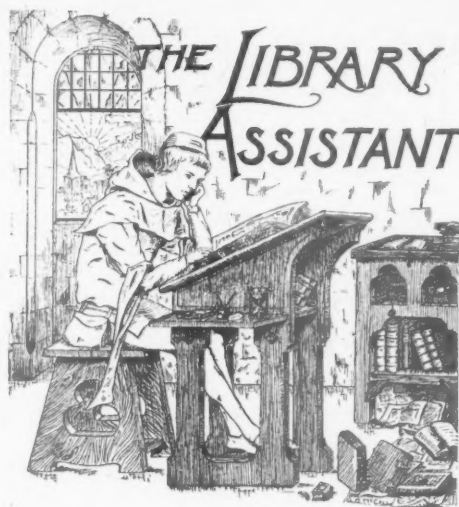
By P.D.G.

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APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

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... SOME COTGREAVE LIBRARY AIDS ...
A FEW TESTIMONIALS.

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N.B.—See also "Greater London," by E. Walford, M.A., F.S.A. (page 360); "Methods of Social Reform," by Prof. W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., F.R.S., LL.D.; "Public Libraries," by T. Greenwood, F.R.G.S.; &c., &c.

[†] As a matter of fact it will be found in about nine-tenths of the Libraries using Indicators. Over 350 Institutions are now using it.

[†] Sixty-two Public Libraries in London and the Metropolitan area are using it.

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The Library Assistant:

The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 43.

JULY, 1901.

Published Monthly

THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

FOUNDED 1895. SIXTH SESSION. YEAR 1900-1901.

Members are requested to read carefully the announcements appearing on this and the following pages, as no further intimation of meetings and other arrangements may be expected.

EXCURSION TO ROCHESTER.

As announced last month, an excursion to Rochester will take place on Wednesday, July 10th, when Mr. G. Payne, F.S.A., will conduct the party over the various places of interest in that city.

The train will leave St. Paul's at 2 p.m., the fare for the journey being 3s. 2d. return

Tea will be provided by Mr. Hopper, a local caterer, at 1s. per head.

A fee of 1½d. (half usual fee) will be charged to view the Castle, and one of 6d. (which may be reduced according to the size of the party) to visit the choir and crypt of the Cathedral.

Will those intending to join kindly send a post card to Mr. W. B. Young, 63, Leslie Road, Leytonstone, E., as soon as possible.

NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

Members are requested to note that the winter session of monthly meetings will commence in September, of which particulars will appear in our next issue.

Members are particularly asked to send in their names as contributors of papers for these meetings to the Hon. Sec.

Suggestions invited.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The sixth annual meeting of the L.A.A. was held at 20 Hanover Square, W., by kind invitation of Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, on Wednesday, June 19th, at eight p.m.

Despite the heavy rain there was a large muster of assistants present, representing all quarters of the London district. Prior to business, the members present partook of refreshments, generously provided by Mr. MacAlister. Mr. E. G. Rees taking the chair, the proceedings opened with the reading of the minutes of the fifth annual meeting, which were confirmed.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the sixth annual report (issued with the June number of this Journal), and recapitulated in a short address the more prominent features of the work of the Committee during the past year. The report was accepted with satisfaction, and the Chairman then declared the following officers duly elected for the seventh session, there being no further nominations:—

Mr. E. G. Rees—*Chairman*.

Mr. W. G. Chambers—*Hon. Treasurer*.

Mr. G. E. Roebuck—*Hon. Secretary*.

Concurrently with these proceedings the scrutiny of the ballot-papers had been carried on, and the Hon. Treasurer, on behalf of the Scrutineers, now declared the result as follows:—

LONDON MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

<i>Elected.</i>				<i>Not Elected.</i>			
Soper, H. T.	...	...	73	Bradley, C. A.	...	...	42
Green, T.	...	...	71	Lawler, E. A.	...	...	30
Hogg, J. F.	...	...	62				
Wood, R. B.	...	...	60				
Bullen, R. F.	...	...	55				
McDouall, W. B.	...	...	55				
Rivers, J.	...	...	54				
Parsons, E. H.	...	...	51				
Vellenoweth, W. J.	...	...	49				
Burt, A. G.	...	...	44				

NON-LONDON MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

<i>Elected.</i>				<i>Not Elected.</i>			
Brown, J. W.	...	...	62	Cunningham, W.	...	...	34
Swann, J. H.	...	...	61	Berry, W.	...	...	31
Gordon, P. D.	...	...	58	Ewing, J. C.	...	...	31
Young, W. B.	...	...	53	Crockford, W.	...	...	30
Hatcher, S. A.	...	...	48	Montgomery, W. J.	...	...	27
Baker, A.	...	...	44	Walker, J. W.	...	...	26
Stevenson, R.	...	...	42	Bird, E.	...	...	22
McDougall, D.	...	...	39	Pomfret, J.	...	...	17
McKenzie, W.	...	...	39	Kirk, H. W.	...	...	13
Radcliffe, J.	...	...	34				

Messrs. Cunningham and Radcliffe polled the same number of votes, and accordingly a vote of those present was resorted to, resulting in the election of Mr. Radcliffe.

The results of the Prize Essay Competitions were then announced, the "Cotgreave" 1901 Prize of £1 1s., for the best essay on "How to Popularise our Public Libraries?" being awarded to Mr. W. J. Harris, of the Stroud Green Branch Library, Hornsey; the essay of Mr. W. Quarmby, of the Oldham Public Libraries being highly commended.

The L.A.A. (1901) Junior Prize of £1 for the best essay on "The proper care and treatment of books by the Public Library Staff and by the borrowers," was awarded to Mr. G. P. Jones, of the Whitechapel Public Library, Stepney; the essay of Mr. W. J. C. Farnell, of the Walsall Public Library, being highly commended.

These announcements were received with applause, and Mr. Peddie heartily congratulated the prize-men, and said that it was an extremely promising sign that so many assistants had written essays on such a subject as "How to popularise a Library." Competition of this character brought out new ideas. It was to this Association that he looked for such ideas. An association composed of young men, especially of assistants, with new blood constantly coming in, should not become sterile. At present there were no signs of it. Stereotyped ideas should be disregarded. New ideas were the secret of success in every profession and trade. It was time the world looked for new library ideas, and to England it should look for them. He hoped the L.A.A. would do even better work in the future than in the past.

In accordance with the notice of business for the evening, Mr. J. F. Hogg, of Battersea, then moved:—

"That a circular be printed setting forth the advantages of membership of the L.A.A., and that a copy be sent by the Hon. Secretary to all newly-appointed assistants in London libraries."

He said that though individually the members did all they could to obtain new recruits, there were libraries in which the Association was not represented at all, and circulars would be a means of opening the eyes of assistants to its existence.

Mr. Soper seconded, and after some discussion, the motion was altered to read as follows:—

"That it be an instruction to the Committee that a circular be printed and distributed, setting forth the advantages of membership of the L.A.A."

This was carried.

In moving

"That a summary of the minutes of the Committee be published in the 'Library Assistant,' together with all division lists."

Mr. D. McDougall, of West Ham, said that if the minutes were published, the members would know more of the work of the Association, most of which was done by the Committee. Assistants were called upon to vote for a Committee, and more than half did not know the gentlemen nominated, or their policy. From the minutes they would learn what was done by them, and from the division lists, how they voted. Their publication would stimulate the Committee in its work.

The motion was seconded by Mr. A. J. Philip.

As an amendment Mr. Soper moved "That the word 'proceedings' be substituted for 'minutes,' and that all words after 'Library Assistant' be deleted."

Mr. Pickard seconded the amendment, but on being put to the meeting it was declared lost.

The original motion was then put, and also lost.

Mr. A. J. Philip, of Hampstead, then moved

"That Rule 3, Section D. of the revised rules be altered to read as follows:—The Association shall have power to expel, at an ordinary meeting, after official notice of the proposed expulsion shall have been given, any member by a vote of 20 % (twenty per cent.) of the total number of members of the L.A.A., or the affiliated branch to which he belongs."

After much discussion this motion was adopted with the insertion of the words "*one month's*" before the word "*official*," the latter portion to read as follows:—

"by a vote of 20 % (twenty per cent.) of the total number of members of the L.A.A. (or the affiliated branch to which he belongs), in favour of that course."

Mr. W. G. Chambers, of Woolwich, moved:—

"That in Rule 5 (a) the word 'Metropolitan' be substituted for 'London' and 'Provincial' for 'Non-London' and the following words inserted after 'Meeting': The Metropolitan Boundary to be co-terminus with the Police District."

The alteration, he said, would give a better representation to the provincial members. Several Non-London members of the Committee, who represented the provincial members, were within a short distance of London.

Mr. H. T. Soper seconded.

The motion was well discussed, and finally the last sentence was altered to read "The Metropolitan Boundary to cover an area of 15 miles from Charing Cross." On being put to the meeting the motion was lost.

A vote of thanks to the retiring Committee was then moved by Mr. W. J. Harris, who said that a deep sense of gratitude should be shown them for the work they had done during the year, and for the time that they had spent on the committee.

This was seconded by Mr. Bursill, and in supporting the motion Mr. Peddie remarked that it was extremely important that members should also join the Library Association. Assistants were wanted to join the London District Branch, and he thought they should take up full membership of all associations connected with their profession.

Mr. W. B. Thorne returned thanks in a few well-chosen words. Unanimous votes of thanks were then accorded to Mr. MacAlister and the Chair, and the business terminated with the usual secretarial announcements.

In pleasing contrast to the strict lines of the evening's proceedings, a letter was read by the Hon. Sec., from our Colonial colleague and hon. member, Mr. B. L. Dyer, of Kimberley Public Library. Mr. Dyer had timed his letter for the annual meeting, and he will be pleased to know that it was right heartily enjoyed by this little muster of his many friends.

"HOLIDAY HINTS."

Notes on Glasgow and its Exhibition.

The approach of the holiday season, bringing with its advent the happy respite from the daily round, has suggested to my mind that many assistants—at a loss where to pass the all-too-brief vacation—might break fresh ground and find pleasure and profit in a visit to the Glasgow Exhibition and the beautiful Firth of Clyde.

For the information of those who decide to swell the pilgrimage "Northward bound" the following notes are chiefly intended; but it is hoped that others may find something of interest in this scanty and incomplete record of the interesting points about Glasgow, its Exhibition, and neighbourhood.

Lest some be deterred on the score of expense, it should be stated that travelling facilities in the West of Scotland by train and steamer are unequalled for cheapness while not surpassed for comfort or convenience.

Ample hotel and boarding-house accommodation at moderate rates will be found in Glasgow and the chief Clyde resorts, which reduce their tariffs during September and October. The latter is one of the finest months in Scotland.

Those preferring private lodgings can secure all necessary information by sending a postcard to the Secretary, Lodging Agency, 114, Bath Street, Glasgow.

Perhaps the most satisfactory way is for strangers to make the city their centre, and so have the choice of many charming one-day excursions, which would allow them to start after

breakfast and be in town again in the early evening, thus enabling them to devote their nights to the Exhibition, or other sources of amusement.

A few words on the places of interest in the city will be of service to those who desire to know the same, and may be said to consist of the Cathedral, with its stained glass and fine crypt, described in "Rob Roy"; the municipal buildings, noted for its "Marble Halls"; the People's Palace, Botanical Gardens, and the "Fossil Grove," Victoria Park.

The University, which last month celebrated its 450th anniversary with great rejoicings, has a splendid and valuable library of 250,000 volumes and 50,000 MSS., and also contains the famous Hunterian collection in the museum (admission 6d.). Lacking a history such as links Edinburgh to the past, the city of St. Mungo has still some claim to the respect of the historical and literary student. On the south side of the river, in Queen's Park, was fought a battle, which—though merely a skirmish—altered the fate of Scotland, affected that of England, and had its influence on Europe. A memorial marks the spot where Mary Queen of Scots saw her hopes vanish at the battle of Langside.

In literature, Glasgow has long held an honourable position, a place which may be said to date back to the time when the brothers Foulis turned out the classics which make them famous amongst early printers. Nor can it be said that literary genius has been lacking in her sons, when we recall such names as Smollet, Alison (the historian), Michael Scott, Campbell (the poet), William Black, and others of lesser repute, who share, with those brilliant soldiers Lord Clyde and Sir John Moore, the honour of belonging to "the Dark Sea-born City."

While many may think of Glasgow as a dirty manufacturing centre, the unprejudiced will find it a city of fine prospects and noble outlines, especially in the western portion beyond the Exhibition grounds. The Great Western Road recalls Leamington at its best, and was pronounced by Ruskin one of the finest city roads anywhere. To those who would compare the present Exhibition with the great "World's Fair" at Paris last year, it may not be out of place to remind them that while the one was a Government affair upon which France officially spent some four millions, the other is purely a private venture and will not have cost the sixteenth part of the French display.

Taking cost as the basis of comparison, the Scottish Exhibition is the finest *for the money*, and given four millions to spend its promoters would have put the Paris show quite in the shade.

However, comparisons were ever odious, and it is sufficient for our satisfaction to know that the Glasgow Exhibition, which covers something like a hundred acres of ground, is the largest and most comprehensive thing of the kind yet achieved in the British Isles.

Finely situated in the Kelvingrove Park, about a mile west of the business quarter, the buildings generally are notable for their fine composition, the *tout ensemble* being without precedent in similar ventures.

By dividing the buildings into three divisions it will facilitate any reference to their contents, which will, therefore, fall under the headings of Fine Arts, Industries, and Machinery.

Taking the latter first, because it covers some of the study-circle work, there will be found some scores of firms more or less directly represented in the vast machinery-hall (covering five acres), in whose work we are interested.

One of the easiest found is the stand of the *Glasgow Herald*, where Hoe, of London, have a four-roll web machine printing newspapers at a phenomenal rate per hour, the installation also includes three linotype machines and a "Success" press-proof feeder.

Illustrated work is shown at the stands of the "Scots Pictorial," and Messrs. Aird and Coghill, where block printing and colour-work are shown with the latest developments.

Another firm close by have some interesting book-binding machinery at work, likewise a wonderful little machine for gumming and folding envelopes, which it does with almost human understanding.

Messrs. Reid, also, had intended showing printing without ink by electricity, but a card is displayed on the stand to inform the curious that "owing to the Patentee's arrangements being still incomplete the process cannot be shown so far."

At various stands in this hall will be witnessed all the processes which are involved in printing books, papers, maps, stationery, and posters, in colour, half-tone, engraving, photo-gravure, and other methods, but for which there is no space for details.

In the grounds there are also many handsome pavilions containing overflow exhibits, among which that of the Machinery Trust, Ltd., is worthy of inspection, containing as it does many novelties in printing and die-stamping machinery. While on the subject attention is drawn to the new "Manoline" composing machine, which is shown in the Canadian Government pavilion, where may also be seen the various stages through which paper-pulp passes ere it becomes that useful material yclept paper.

From printing and paper it is an easy stage to book-binding, an interesting exhibit of which is made at the stand of the Glasgow School of Art, in the Women's Section of the main building. There students may be seen evolving all manners of artistically designed book-bindings from various antique leathers.

In the same section the visitor will find a very important collection of portraits and autographs of famous authoresses and composers, with many valuable MSS.

Near the Dome, in the south-west part of the Industrial Hall, will be noticed many fine exhibits by such well-known firms as Messrs. Cassell & Co., Chambers, MacLelrose & Son, Oxford Press, Wm. Morrison, Andre & Sleigh, etc., etc., but details are not required here.

It is impossible to note all the exhibits of professional interest—without attempting to mention any others—but exception must be made in the case of the Russian section, which is in itself an exhibition and an education in what the land of Tolstoi and the Czars can accomplish.

Then there are the six Russian pavilions outside, which are objects of much attention (inside and out). Surely never before has such quaint architecture been found outside the pages of the "Arabian Nights," seeing that they combine the features of many centuries of Muscovite buildings gathered together into what forms a brilliant, grotesque—but most picturesque—feature of the Glasgow display.

Passing through the grounds to the magnificent new art-galleries, we note amongst hosts of buildings those devoted to agriculture, and heating and lighting, while the pavilions of France, Japan, Canada, and Ireland, form a setting for the Grand Concert Hall, a *replica* of the Albert Hall in form and size.

Pausing at the galleries entrance the eye rests on the fine statue of the late Queen, by Frampton, which to the thinking mind is pregnant with many reflections as you gaze upon the calm dignity of the bronze figure, contrasting strangely with the bustling eagerness of the cosmopolitan throng which swirls past its feet.

If this effigy may be said to symbolise peace, surely the Boer guns—captured by Lord Roberts—immediately behind are fitting reminders of the cruel God of War.

Entering the galleries the visitor steps straightway into a large lofty hall, whose noble dimensions and graceful design will charm the most fastidious.

Here, and in the adjoining east and west courts, are placed the works of the leading British and continental sculptors, which is the best display of the kind we have seen.

On the first floor will be found the oil and water-colour paintings, which together form the most important and representative collection of pictures by British artists ever gathered under one roof.

There are also galleries devoted to foreign works, a rich display of black and whites, and architectural drawings. While art treasures—other than the foregoing—Scottish historical relics, archæological and educational sections are likewise housed in this splendid building, the whole forming an artistic display unique in our annals.

The student of natural history will find plenty to interest and instruct in the colonial sections, which have very complete exhibits of the birds, animals, and fishes peculiar to each. While those—and I should imagine every Briton is—interested in naval architecture, will be delighted with the display of beautiful models illustrating the evolution of the steamship, from the "Comet" to the Turbine steamer "King Edward."

It is worthy of mention that the original beam engine of the "Comet," the first steamship, may be seen in the rear of the Japanese building.

Having spent several hours in flitting from one point to another the visitor may well feel in need of refreshment, and in the many picturesque restaurants adorning the spacious grounds he will find, in the words of an eminent London journalist, "the most comfortable feature of the most comfortable exhibition yet held in Britain."

Certainly sitting out on the terrace of the "Bungalow" or "Grosvenor" with a famous Berlin band playing on the distant stand, as you hear the strains of "Die Walkürenritt" rising faintly in the still air and watch the gay throngs promenading below you, it is almost impossible to realise that the flashing domes and minarets, so bravely throwing back the rays of the setting sun, are but temporary structures in the prosaic matter-of-fact city of Glasgow.

Viewed by night from the heights of the University the scene is one blaze of light, beneath which the waters of the Kelvin flash like myriads of diamonds, while slowly overhead travels the rays of the searchlight which looked out on Chicago and Paris.

P.D.G.

THE BAGGULEY DEFENCE FUND.

At a meeting held at 20, Hanover Square, on June 21st, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That this meeting of London members of the Library

Association expresses its heartfelt sympathy with Mr. W. H. Bagguley in his recent trial, and rejoices that his appeal against the magistrate's decision resulted in the Recorder's unqualified acquittal of the appellant."

The cost of the legal proceedings being exceedingly heavy— (£160)—this meeting recommends:—

- "(a) That the members of the Library Association be invited to subscribe to the costs of the defence.
- "(b) That the Council of the Library Association be asked to give financial support to Mr. Bagguley in regard to his recent appeal and in any action he may be advised to take against the Lewisham Borough Council."

N.B.—Subscriptions may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer of the "Bagguley Defence Fund," addressed to

Mr. HENRY J. HEWITT,
Public Library,
Chiswick.

[The details of the above case will doubtless be familiar to all our readers, and we hope they will, to the extent of their ability, subscribe to the above Fund.]

STUDY CIRCLE.

SUMMER QUARTER.

After due consideration it has been thought by the Committee advisable to suspend the work of the Study Circle during the next three months. Questions on the readings given in last month's "Assistant" will be set as the first work for the new quarter starting in October.

There were very few papers sent in last month, but it is supposed that this is the result of the holiday season having commenced. The Committee earnestly hope, however, that the work will be taken up with renewed energy in October next, and that the success anticipated may be realised. Too much importance cannot be attached to this method of professional education, in which individual success means not only the gaining of useful prizes, but the accumulation of such knowledge as will materially aid the assistant in his duties and in the bettering of his position.

It may be mentioned that several advances and one or two appointments have been largely influenced by the fact that the individuals were found to be following a methodical course of study in Librarianship; and we trust that this thought may prompt all assistants to participate in this educational scheme, arranged and conducted solely for their benefit.

The second quarter's work having concluded, the marks have been totalled up with the result that the Senior Prize is awarded to Mr. A. H. Edwards, of Liverpool ("Aloa"), and the Junior to Mr. Jas. McKnight, of Wigan ("Papyrus"). Full table of results is appended.

The Senior papers this month—although few in number—are good in quality, but this cannot be said of the Junior. Lack of originality in composition is very noticeable, and in one or two instances the literature answers have been copied, without alteration, either from the text-book or from some other treatise. The Committee regret this very much, and trust that hereafter students will bear in mind the regulation which was stipulated in the January "Assistant," viz.:—"It is to be distinctly understood that the Committee expect that no competitor, after having once commenced to answer the questions will refer again to the books until that set of answers is completed." The word "books" in this case meaning "all works giving information on the subject in question."

TOTAL MARKS AWARDED DURING SECOND QUARTER.

MARKS OBTAINABLE = 750.

Senior.				Junior.			
Aloa ...	...	...	735	Papyrus ...	...	...	669
Guyon ...	...	...	710	Undaunted ...	...	...	569
Nil Desperandum ...	...	...	687	Julius Cæsar...	...	...	542
Mercury ...	...	...	660	Old Nick ...	...	...	536
Germes ...	...	...	640	Ystradyfodwg ...	...	...	519
Struggler ...	...	...	535	a Wiggin ...	...	...	426
a Galahad ...	...	...	460	a Adonis ...	...	...	354
a Cam ...	...	...	420	a Joey ...	...	...	348
a Minerva ...	...	...	400	b Junior...	...	...	231
a Dumbbell ...	...	...	390	b Book ...	...	...	207
b Astrophel ...	...	...	225	b Anon ...	...	...	204
b Dane ...	...	...	205				
b Etudiart ...	...	...	195				
b Northumbria...	...	...	190				
b Quo ...	...	...	180				
b Apiarist ...	...	...	165				
b Wyvern ...	...	...	165				

a Only two papers sent.

b Only one paper sent.

APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES.

FARNELL, Mr. W. Crowden, Assistant, Haggerston Branch, Shoreditch, to be Assistant, Walsall.

HAGGERSTON, Mr. R. L., Assistant, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to be Sub-Librarian, Norwich.

JONES, Mr. G. P., Junior Assistant, St. George, E., Stepney, to be Assistant, Whitechapel, Stepney.

ORRETT, Mr. Arthur Owen, to be Junior Assistant, Chester.

PACY, Mr. W. H., Assistant, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Westminster, to be Librarian, Beaconsfield, near Kimberley, South Africa.

PHILLIPS, Mr. Philip Henry, Junior Assistant, Chester, to be Senior Assistant, *vice* Mr. H. E. Bennett, resigned through ill health.

STAPLEY, Mr. Chas. F., to be Junior Assistant, Chester.

NOTES AND NEWS.

CRIPPLEGATE INSTITUTE, LONDON, E.C.—Mr. J. Passmore Edwards has signified his intention of presenting busts of John Milton and Daniel Defoe, from the chisel of Mr. George Framp-ton, A.R.A., to the Cripplegate Institute. Milton was buried in the Church of St. Giles, Cripplegate, which also contains a memorial bust of the poet, placed there in 1793, by Samuel Whitbread, the friend of Sheridan. Defoe was born in the parish.

IPSWICH.—The card charging system is about to be introduced. Hitherto, since its formation in 1887 the ledger system of recording issues has been in vogue.

STEEPLE CLAYDON, BUCKS.—After nine years of confident expectation the Steeple Claydon Public Library was opened without any kind of ceremony in temporary premises on Monday, June 10. Already the matter is being warmly taken up, and books are beginning to flow in. A handsome start has been given by a gift of £50 from Miss Florence Nightingale, and there can be no doubt that in a few years this Library will be as signal a success as those in the adjoining parishes of Middle and East Claydon.

WEST HAM.—The Town Council have accepted an offer by Mr. Passmore Edwards to build a branch library.

NOTICES.

Communications relating to the Journal and its publishing should be addressed to the *Hon. Editor, pro tem.*, Mr. S. A. Hatcher, Public Library, Canning Town, E.

All other communications should be addressed to the *Hon. Secretary, pro tem.*, Mr. G. E. Roebuck, 236, Cable Street, E.



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Manufacture of Varnishes, 12s. 6d.
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Hops in their Botanical and Technical aspect, 12s. 6d.
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Dyeing of Paper Pulp, with 157 dyed patterns, 15s.
Practical Treatise on the Bleaching of Linen and Cotton Yarn and Fabrics, 12s. 6d.
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